

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 ARA-06 INT-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 214413

E.O. 11652: GDS

TA : PFOR, RQ, UN

SUBJECT: PUERTO RICO BAR ASSN STATEMENT TO COMMITTEE OF
24

REF: USUN 3187 (NOTAL)

1. ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION PROVIDED BY USUN IT APPEARS
THAT PUERTO RICO BAR ASSOCIATION STATEMENT TO COMMITTEE OF
24 WILL CONSIST OF EXAMINATION OF GA RES. 1541 AND ARGUMENT
THAT PRESENT STATUS OF PR DOES NOT MEET CRITERIA FOR AT-
TAINMENT OF SELF-GOVERNMENT CONTAINED IN THAT RESOLUTION.
IF STATEMENT DOES NOT GO BEYOND THAT, NO APPARENT PURPOSE
WOULD BE SERVED BY ENCOURAGING AUSTRALIANS OR OTHER FRIENDS
ON THE COMMITTEE TO QUESTION THE BAR ASSN SPOKESMAN.

2. IF SPOKESMAN SHOULD ADVOCATE ANY PARTICULAR SOLUTION
TO THE PR STATUS QUESTION, PARTICULARLY IF HE ADVOCATES
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INDEPENDENCE, OR CHARGES THE US WITH FAILURE TO CARRY OUT

OBLIGATIONS WITH REGARD TO PR, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF AUSTRALIANS OR OTHER FRIENDLY COMMITTEE MEMBERS WOULD ASK ABOUT MANDATE OF ASSOCIATION TO TAKE SUCH A POSITION, E.G. DID IT POLL FULL MEMBERSHIP TO OBTAIN MEMBER VIEWS? DOES BAR ASSN REFLECT VIEWS OF PEOPLE OF PR? DO PEOPLE HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS VIEWS FREELY ON POLITICAL STATUS?

DO INDEPENDENCE CANDIDATES PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS? WHAT PERCENT OF VOTERS SUPPORT PRO-INDEPENDENCE CANDIDATES?

3. ACTION REQUESTED: USUN SHOULD DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH AUSTRALIANS AND ANY OTHER DELEGATIONS WHICH IN JUDGMENT OF USUN CAN BE COUNTED ON TO BE HELPFUL, ENCOURAGING THEM TO BE PREPARED ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS TO ASK QUESTIONS WHICH WILL DEMONSTRATE THAT PEOPLE OF PR ARE FREE TO EXPRESS VIEWS ON STATUS AND THAT THEY HAVE NOT GIVEN BAR ASSN A MANDATE TO ADVOCATE INDEPENDENCE ON THEIR BEHALF.

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